(RDELs) installed after 1.4.2005 in the eligible 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), where cost of providing telephone connection is more than the revenue earned. As per agreement conditions, the Universal Service Provider (USP) should provide at least 100 line per Secondary Switching Area (SSA) within six months of the effective date of agreement. Thereafter all the waitlisted subscribers are to be provided with rural telephones within a period of three months in these SDCAs. Support is also being provided to the RDELs already installed in these areas during the period 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2005.

Maintaining of call details records

3755. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Internet Telephony on Voice Over Internet Protocol(VOIP) is causing concern among the Indian Security agencies, as such calls made to overseas parties, leave no trace of calls being made at all;

(b) whether several Internet Telephony Service Providers in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab are selling calling cards of different unregistered overseas companies;

(c) whether ITSP licencees maintain call details records, as a part of the licensing conditions;

(d) whether apart from security considerations, such clandestine operations by ITSPs cause severe revenue loss to the Centre; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid at the Table of the House.

Formation of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Committee

3756. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider formation of a full-fledged Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Committee on the lines of All India Haj

Committee, to offer scope for more pilgrims from India keen to visit Kailash Mansarovar;

(b) whether Government would ensure proper conservation and protection of the holy precincts of Kailash Mansarovar through a pact with the Chinese Government on the lines of Pant-Mirza pact of 1955 providing protection of non-Muslim shrines in Pakistan; and

(c) whether Government would also consider joint upgradation of road leading to Kailash Mansarovar in consultation with its Chinese counterpart?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The present arrangement of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in coordination with various Central and State Government agencies is adequate in view of the relatively small number of pilgrims going for the Yatra.

(b) Deep religious sentiments of the people of India associated with Kailash and Mansarovar have been conveyed, from time to time, to the Chinese authorities, who are responsible for the protection and conservation of these holy places.

(c) Government have initiated steps to develop road upto the Lipulekh Pass on the Indian side. Government have also proposed to the Chinese side to open an alternative route through Demchok, which has better connectivity of Kailash and Mansarovar in terms of road infrastructure.

Promotion of Hindi abroad

†3757. SHRI NAND KISHOR YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were taught Hindi in Indian Missions abroad during the last three years, year-wise and Mission-wise;

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to promote the use of Hindi abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry has a well-formulated scheme for propagation of Hindi abroad. The Indian Council

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.